

1       **In the Claims**

2       Claims 38-44, 50 and 51 are canceled without prejudice.

3       Claim 45 is amended.

4       Claims 45-49 remain in the application for consideration and are listed  
5 below:

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7       1.-37. (Canceled).

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9       38.-44. (Canceled).

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11       45. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 39~~ A method  
12 comprising:

13       receiving a content request from a content requester;

14       retrieving the requested content from a content source;

15       processing the retrieved content to provide an abstract content model  
16 comprising a directional graph featuring a top-down hierarchical structure having  
17 nodes that represent components of the content and edges that represent  
18 relationships between the nodes, the nodes being configured to have a node status  
19 that defines dynamic statuses of nodes during content delivery, the node statuses  
20 being selected from a group of statuses comprising: (1) inactive status where the  
21 node is not yet a deliverable object, (2) activable status wherein an active  
22 condition of the node is satisfied but the node is not yet included in a delivery  
23 plan, (3) activated status wherein the node has been chosen in a delivery plan, (4)  
24 delivered status wherein the node has been delivered successfully to a content  
25 receiver, and (5) skipped status wherein the node is not delivered and will not be

1 included in the delivery plan; and wherein there are multiple different types of  
2 edges selected from a group of types comprising: (1) a dependency edge type that  
3 defines a logical dependency between nodes, (2) a route edge type that defines an  
4 ordered or hierarchical dependency between nodes, and (3) a mixed edge type that  
5 defines a logical dependency between nodes and an ordered or hierarchical  
6 dependency between nodes;

7 processing the abstract content model to select an optimal delivery plan the  
8 use of which will permit requested content to be delivered to the content requester;  
9 and

10 processing the abstract content model to provide deliverable content in  
11 accordance with the selected delivery plan, wherein the abstract content model  
12 comprises an ignition edge that is defined as a dependency edge from a node that  
13 is activated, delivered or skipped, wherein nodes can have output behaviors that  
14 define how nodes on ends of outgoing route edges can be branched in accordance  
15 with a branching operation, where a branched node constitutes a node that has  
16 been changed from an activable node to an activated node.

17  
18 46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein there are multiple  
19 different branching operations.  
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21 47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple  
22 different branching operations comprises a complementary branching operation  
23 wherein all activable nodes can be branched.  
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1        48.    (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple  
2 different branching operations comprises an exclusive branching operation  
3 wherein only one node from all activable nodes can be branched.  
4

5        49.    (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple  
6 different branching operations comprises a tight branching operation wherein all  
7 activable nodes must be branched.  
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9        50.-51 (Canceled)  
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11       52.-62. (Canceled)  
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